

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY SUVA IMMEDIATE 4978

S E C R E T STATE 205865

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 205865 ACTION WELLINGTON INFO  
CANBERRA GENEVA USUN PARIS LONDON CINCPAC SUVA VIA POUCH  
PORT MORESBY VIA POUCH 29 AUG

QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 205865

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: P

RM, PFOR, NZ, XP

SUBJECT: SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONE

REF: A. WELLINGTON 2431

B. WELLINGTON 2451;

∴ WELLINGTON 2499

1. EA ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB CALLED IN NEW ZEALAND DCM  
ATKINS AUGUST 27 TO DISCUSS ROWLING INTERVIEW ON SPNFZ  
(NZ AMBASSADOR WHITE IS ON VACATION). HABIB SAID WE READ  
THE TEXT OF THE INTERVIEW WITH SOME CONCERN. HE POINTED  
OUT THAT AMBASSADOR SELDEN HAD RAISED THE ISSUE WITH NZ  
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FOREIGN SECRETARY CORNER. HABIB THEN SAID WE ARE AT A LOSS  
TO UNDERSTAND THE POSITION TAKEN BY ROWLING ON TRANSIT BY  
NUCLEAR-ARMED VESSELS, SINCE IT APPEARS TO CONFLICT WITH A  
LETTER FROM CORNER AND ROWLING'S STATEMENT TO THE PRESIDENT

IN MAY. HABIB SAID THE PARAMETERS OF NEW ZEALAND'S SPNFZ CONCEPT SEEM TO KEEP EXPANDING. WE WOULD HOPE THAT NEW ZEALAND WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT OUR POSITION ON TRANSIT, SINCE WE WOULD CONSIDER RESTRICTIONS UNACCEPTABLE. HABIB MADE CLEAR OUR SENSITIVITY ON THIS POINT.

2. ATKINS SAID THAT WELLINGTON HAD INFORMED THE EMBASSY HERE OF AMBASSADOR SELDEN'S DEMARCHE, AND HE COMMENTED THAT

OUR POINT WAS WELL TAKEN. HE THEN READ THE FOLLOWING CLARIFYING STATEMENT FROM A TELEGRAM: QUOTE:

IN USING THE WORD "MOVEMENT" IN AN OFF THE CUFF RESPONSE TO A QUESTION THE PRIME MINISTER WAS THINKING OF DEPLOYMENT AS OPPOSED TO TRANSIT AND DID NOT INTEND TO CONVEY ANY CHANGE IN POLICY. ALSO HE WAS FOR PRESENTATIONAL PURPOSES TALKING ABOUT LONG RANGE OBJECTIVES RATHER THAN SHORT-TERM PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS. ALTHOUGH PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ZONE WILL BE A MATTER FOR CONSULTATION AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION, OFFICIAL THINKING IS THAT NEW ZEALAND, FOR ITS PART, WOULD PREFER TO FOLLOW THE PRECEDENT OF THE TLALELOLCO TREATY AND TO REFRAIN FROM PUTTING ANYTHING IN OUR TREATY THAT MIGHT LIMIT THE RIGHT OF THE STATES OF THE ZONE TO GRANT OR DENY TRANSIT PRIVILEGES THROUGH TERRITORIAL WATERS TO THE VESSELS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY. END QUOTE.

ATKINS REITERATED THAT ROWLING HAD NOT INTENDED TO SUGGEST ANY CHANGE IN POLICY. HE SAID THAT WELLINGTON IS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF A PUBLIC CLARIFYING STATEMENT.

3. HABIB NOTED THAT WE PREFER THAT PORT CALLS BE HANDLED AS A BILATERAL MATTER. HE THEN SAID WE WOULD PREFER THAT NEW ZEALAND'S DRAFT UNGA RESOLUTION ON ESTABLISHING A SPNFZ (CO-SPONSORED BY FIJI) BE CHANGED TO CALL FOR A STUDY. ATKINS SAID NEW ZEALAND DID NOT PROPOSE TO TAKE  
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UP THE CHANGES SUGGESTED BY THE USG (STATE 188285). HABIB INFORMED ATKINS THAT WE WILL NOT SUPPORT THE NEW ZEALAND RESOLUTION.

4. IN LATER CONVERSATION WITH ANP DESK OFFICERS, ATKINS STATED THAT AMBASSADOR SELDEN'S DEMARCHE HAD BEEN BROUGHT DIRECTLY TO PRIME MINISTER ROWLING'S ATTENTION, AND THAT ROWLING HAD SAID HE HAD NOT INTENDED TO IMPLY A CHANGE OF POLICY. ATKINS REVIEWED NEW ZEALAND'S THREE-STAGE CONCEPT FOR A SPNFZ: (1) THE UNGA RESOLUTION; (2) THE WORKING OUT OF PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS AMONG THE PARTICIPATING STATES; (3) THE EXPANSION OF THE ZONE TO INCLUDE THE HIGH SEAS.

5. DEPARTMENT WILL PROVIDE FURTHER GUIDANCE AFTER  
STUDYING CLARIFYING STATEMENT PROVIDED BY ATKINS. OUR  
INITIAL REACTION IS THAT A LONG-TERM DIFFERENCE REMAINS  
OVER QUESTION OF APPLICABILITY OF SPNFZ PROVISIONS TO  
TRANSIT AND USE OF HIGH SEAS. INGERSOLL UNQUOTE KISSINGER

SECRET

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